## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 XMB-02

TRSE-00 L-02 /048 W

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R 141205Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3381

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

CONFIDENTIAL NOUAKCHOTT 0300

COMMERCE FOR COHEN

BRUSSELS AND LAGOS FOR FAA

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EAIR MR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BOEING PROPOSES 737 TO MAURITANIA

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT 0075 B. NOUAKCHOTT 107

SUMMARY: BOEING REP RECENTLY VISITED NOUAKCHOTT AT REQUEST OF GIRM WHICH HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING 737. FINAL DECISION NOW RESTS WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. END SUMMAYR.

1. JOHN FITZGERALD, DIRECTOR OF BOEING INTERNATIONAL S. P. A. IN ROME, VISITED NOUAKCHOTT FEBRUARY 12-13 WHEN HE RESPONDED TO EXPRESSED MAURITANIAN INTEREST IN PURCHASING BOEING 737. FITZGERALD MET WITH MINISTER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF TRANSPORT AND COMMERCE, DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S CABINET, TOP AIR FORCE OFFICIALS, AND GOVERNOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CENTRAL BANK AMONG OTHERS. IN EACH INSTANCE, HE WAS

## WELL RECEIVED AND HAD USEFUL DISCUSSIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH GIRM IS SEEKING PLANE PRIMARILY FOR USE BY PRESIDENT, ALTERNATE USES ARE BEING CONSIDERED. CONSEQUENTLY, PURCHASE OF 737 OR COMPARABLE PLANE MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF AIR MAURITANIE'S FLEET WHICH CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF 2 DC-4S, 2 DC-3S, 2 F-27S, AND ONE PIPER NAVAJO. AIR MAURITANIE IS IN PROCESS FO ORDERING TWO MORE F-27S AND LOOKING TO DAY WHEN IT WILL ADD LARGER AIRCRAFT SUCH AS 737. FITZGERALD POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD MAKE LITTLE SENSE TO USE SINGLE 737 FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL PURPOSES. HE TRIED TO DISABUSE MAURITANIANS VIABILITY THIS SUGGESTION. AT SAME TIME, HE THOUGHT 737 COULD BE USED FOR COMBINATION PRESIDENTIAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT PURPOSES, E. G. DROUGHT RELIEF

DISASTER SUPPORT, ETC. IF GIRM DECIDES TO PURCHASE 737 FOR USE AS EXECUTIVE JET, IT COULD LEAD TO FURTHER SALES IN YEAR AHEAD TO AIR MAURITANIE.

- 3. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS IN NOUAKCHOTT, FITZGERALD CONCLUDED DECISION IS NOW WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. FITZGERALD SAID REAL QUESTIONREMAINS AS TO SUFFICIENT USE BEING MADE OF AIRCRAFT SUCH AS 737. THERE WAS ALSO DESIRE IN SOME QUARTERS FOR PURCHASE OF USED 737. FITZGERALD EXPLAINED TO GIRM THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO LOCATEUSED 737 WHEREAS USED DC-9 COULD BE LOCATED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. IN ANY EVENT, FITZGERALD EXPECTS TO LEARN FINAL DECISION WITHIN WEEK OR TWO.
- 4. AS REPORTED REF A, GIRM WAS OBVIOUSLYINTERESTED IN SMALLER ECUTIVE JET. WITH THIS IN MIND, HAWKER SIDDLEY REPRESENTATIVE VISITEDNOUAKCHOTT FEBRUARY 5-8 IN EFFORT TO SELL MODEL 125. ALTHOUGH EQUALLY WELL RECEIVED BY GIRM, REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT HIS TRIP WAS ESSENTIALLY IN VAIN. HE CONCLUDED AT END OF VISIT THAT MAURITANIA HAD DECIDED TO PURCHASE LARGER PLANE.SHINN

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